

49ERS

REPORT



Niners Crush Redskins

Victory Sets Up Showdown With The Cowboys

New Rival

The Carolina Cougars, one of two expansion teams set to begin play in the NFL next season, will be a member of the NFC West.

Old Rival

The 49ers and the Cowboys, will have met for the fourth time in 22 months when they play this Sunday.

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CB Deion Sanders thinks the 49ers, whom he joined last month as a free agent from the Falcons, are too uptight. He described the team as "overconservative" and says there's no excuse for that when you have as much talent as the Niners have.

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Eric Davis

The Niners' 'Other' Cornerback

Grading the offense through eight

...Page 6

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49ERS

REPORT

Vol. 10, No. 3

November 7, 1994

FEATURES

- 6 MIDTERM REPORT**
49ers Report assesses the offense
after eight games

By Kevin Lynch

- 12 GAMEDAY NINE**
The Niners went to Washington to take on
the Redskins

DEPARTMENTS

- 5 COACH'S CORNER**
With George Seifert
- 9 9ER NUGGETS**
- 11 POSTER SHOT**
- 15 1994 NFL SCHEDULE**
- 16 GAME PREVIEW**
- 18 PREDICTIONS**

COLUMNS

- 4 KEVIN LYNCH**
- 10 MIKE SHUMANN**

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KEVIN
LYNCH

ONLY SIX MORE SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

If ever there was a time for the spirit of Orson Welles to awaken, it is now. The ghost of Welles should waft up from the grave and then float to the nearest, biggest microphone it can find. For, truly, the War of the Worlds (or so it seems) is going to happen this weekend at

Candlestick Park.

Welles could warn families to keep their children safely tucked away in their basements. The Runaway Freight Train of Hype is liable to barrel down a street near you sometime this week. They'll call it Super Bowl XXVIII V. They'll call it the greatest game ever played before the two teams even etch their game plans.

IT'S ALI-FRAZIER, Foreman-Moorer, Godzilla-King Kong, Lincoln-Douglas, Allies-Axis all rolled up into one three-hour nationally televised "event."

Yes, it's 49ers-Cowboys. This single game might even be bigger than Rush Limbaugh, literally.

Of course, the 49ers have played in these humungous, colossal games before. That's why smoke was already billowing out of their locker room even before the frenzied reporters charged into the players' dressing area following the 49ers' 37-22 defeat of the Redskins.

The smoke was from the friction. The 49ers were trying to put the brakes on the Runaway Freight Train of Hype. Even before players had peeled off their sweat-soaked undergarments, reporters were asking Big D questions.

It was as if the dozens who had just covered the Redskins game had collectively bashed their heads against one of RFK's steel girders. If was as if the media had suffered from three hours of amnesia, for no one asked a question about the just-concluded game. But, a score of microphones were poised for any orifice that mumbled the word "Cowboys."

FOR THE 49ERS, spin control was the order of the day. In fact, it's too bad the boys and girls from the White House weren't there to witness it. They could have learned a thing or two.

Jerry Rice was the first to mention the unimaginable, to delve into the strictly taboo.

"If things don't work out like they should against the Cowboys," Rice told reporters, "that's not going to destroy our season. We still have a good football team. We are going to be in it until the end. We're not going to let one game dictate our season."

You mean the team that loses this game doesn't immediately disband? Players aren't just cast out to played under assumed names in the Arena League?

ARE THE TEAMS considering the emotional luggage they would have to carry on board after a loss? Why, it's enough to sink a super tanker. If the 49ers lost again to the Cowboys, the help line circuit boards around the Bay Area would blow up. Or so it seems.

Apparently, that's not what team president Carmen Policy said following the Redskins game. He simply reminded everyone that this week's contest was a regular-season game, just like all the others. In fact, at the end season, a victory over the Cowboys on Sunday will be

worth just as much as a victory over the Buccaneers.

Teams simply don't get two victories for beating the current world champion.

"If we're as victorious against the Cowboys as we were today," Policy said, "I still think we haven't proven what we have to prove. That will come at the end of the season."

That blasted Carmen. There's nothing like logic to blunt a robust round of hype. Doesn't he realize that word of this game has to reach even the tiniest grass-thatched huts outside Kathmandu? Doesn't he know that every conceivable angle of this matchup must be explored? By Friday, they'll be wondering how the pebbles of the pigskin will be effected by a Troy Aikman hangnail.

GAME PLANS ARE likely to be kept in safe deposit boxes and delivered to the players by armored transport. But while the media force feed the importance of this game to a saturated public, the 49ers and Cowboys will be trying to keep their heads.

Policy tried to explain how this works to the media outsiders. He did it by pulling a chestnut from the Yogi Berra Book of Wisdom.

"This game is not just any other game, don't misunderstand," Policy implored. "However, it's another game."

Don't misunderstand? Isn't that like telling a frog not to catch flies?

Oh, no. I can hear the clickity-clack of the Hype Train. It's time to hit the basement. We'll see you on the other side of the Cowboys-Niners game. If indeed there is another side.



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**GEORGE
SEIFERT**

PASS-RUSH CONSISTENCY SOUGHT

Q. IS THE DEFENSE NOW GETTING MORE COMFORTABLE?

A. I don't know. I can't say. I wouldn't suggest we're there. I don't believe we are. I think we are still going to have to play better defensively. We've got to be more consistent in our

pass rush. It's still something that's a problem for us. But we've had our moments.

Q. WHAT DO YOU DO TO INSURE DEFENSIVE INTENSITY?

A. We tried to address that during the past week. We had very short practices, but they were crisp. And we had one day of hitting. Now it's more of a mental state; of constant reminders throughout the week.

Q. WHAT IMPACT HAS (CORNERBACK) DEION SANDERS MADE?

A. The main thing is there aren't too many players (to whom you can say), "Cover that guy" and you don't think about it. You think about it, but you kind of say, "OK, that's your baby." And then you focus on the specifics of the coverage in other areas. So that's a positive for everybody. It doesn't mean he's infallible, obviously. He's been beaten and people have caught passes on him, but he is certainly one of the best single-coverage defensive backs in football,

and the presence allows you to overplay other areas.

Q. HOW HAS SANDERS INFLUENCED (CORNERBACK) ERIC DAVIS?

A. First off, Eric's a good player. What Eric realized was that he was going to get all the action and he'd better crank it up. And I think it's a positive statement for Eric, the fact he has performed and faced up to it the way he has.

Q. WILL YOU USE SANDERS AS A KICK RETURNER?

A. Not at this point. Dexter (Carter) is doing a fine job and I think we want Deion to focus on the main reason he's here, and that's to play cornerback.

Q. HOW HAS (ROOKIE DEFENSIVE TACKLE) BRYANT YOUNG BEEN PLAYING, AND HAS (DEFENSIVE TACKLE) DANA STUBBLEFIELD HELPED HIM ALONG?

A. I think it's helped him dramatically in that Dana is so mature and has a year of experience. At the same time, Bryant is quite mature, too, for a young guy. He has a style different from Dana's. He's not a streaky player because he's mature and he's a good athlete and he is dedicated to this business. So you just see improvement each week.

Q. DOES HARRIS BARTON NEED AN ADJUSTMENT PERIOD BECAUSE HE'S COMING BACK FROM AN INJURY AFTER NINE WEEKS?

A. I'd say there would be a little bit of an adjustment

period, but Harris has played an awful lot and he's a bright guy. Even though he wasn't playing, he was always here paying attention to his business, to the job at hand. So I don't expect there will be a big dropoff.

Q. ARE YOU MORE AT EASE WITH YOUR JOB NOW?

A. We've been fortunate in the last few ballgames and that always allows me to roll with the punches a little more. For some reason it has a direct correlation. I feel good about our club and about where we were at the end of the first half (of the season). We'd like to have been undefeated, but I felt the club was definitely getting better and played better in the last three games. Now it's a matter of coming out of the blocks with a vengeance.

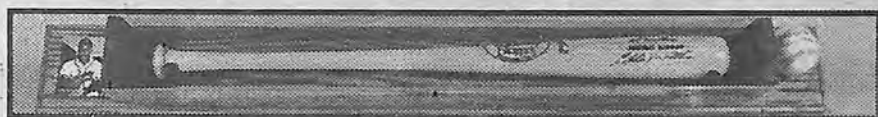
Q. WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST ADJUSTMENT FOR (NEWLY ACQUIRED DEFENSIVE END) CHARLES MANN?

A. It's just like anything else. It's developing a sense and a feel for the way we do things and what we're asking him to do. And it's different from what he's done in the past — flip-flopping our defensive ends and so forth. That's not an easy thing to adjust to.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT THE RUNNING GAME TO PLAY A LARGER ROLE FROM HERE ON?

A. We hope to have that continually improve, along with the rest of our team. They (running backs) did better in the last game. I hope they will be a factor in this game. To say, all of a sudden, we're going to change our style, we're not.

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REPORT CARD TIME

Injuries Make 6-2 Record Look Good

BY KEVIN LYNCH

The 49ers' star is rising. At the halfway point in the season, they had a substantial lead in the NFC West and were in the hunt to secure the homefield advantage throughout the playoffs.

NOT ONLY ARE THEY in a good position, they're returning key starters to the lineup; guys who missed most of the first half because of injury. Offensive tackle Harris Barton, for example, is nearly recovered from the torn tricep suffered in the opener.

Starting guard Ralph Tamm is still suffering pain in his injured foot. The plantar fascia tendon, which runs from the heel to the arch, was completely torn four plays into the first game. Tamm was prescribed rest, but has started to run.

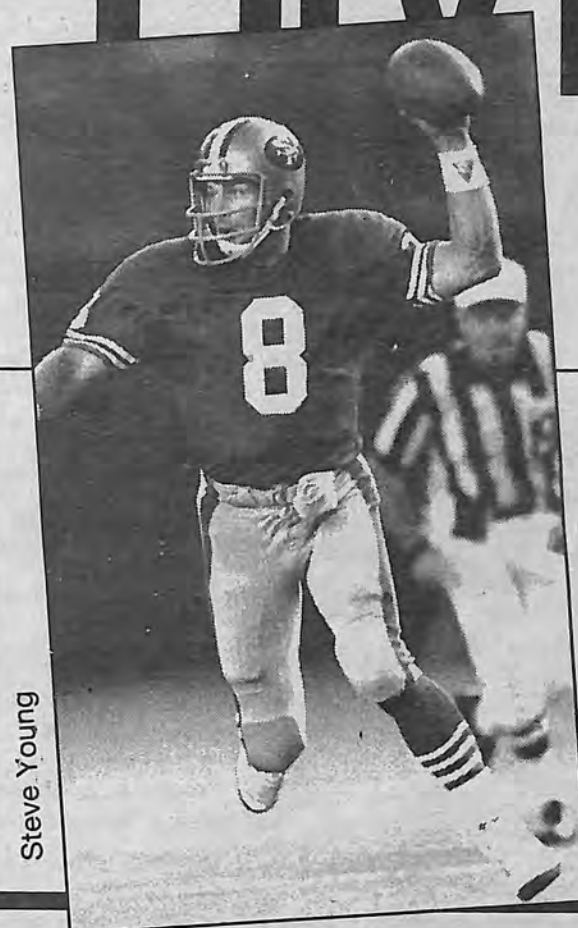
Defensive end Richard Dent hopes he's only a week or two away from returning. The All-Pro defensive end tore his right medial collateral ligament in Game 2 and said he would try to return as soon as possible. He's starting to move laterally.

WE WILL ANALYZE as we delve into our annual mid-season report. Part One this week will review the offense. Part Two next week will look at the defense.

This year, we asked the players and/or coaches for their own grades in evaluating their own areas. Some didn't want to issue them at this point. We'll use their remarks as grades in those cases.



Harris Barton



Steve Young

QUARTERBACK

The remarkably consistent Steve Young is once again the No. 1 rated quarterback in the league despite having his sacroiliac rattled every Sunday.

YOUNG HAS TAKEN more shots than a duck in a shooting gallery. He has been sacked 21 times, the most takedowns a Niners quarterback has suffered since 1989.

He's also taken some brutal blindside smacks. If the hit is really bad he'll squirm on the turf for a while, but eventually dusts himself off and then finds the open receiver. Young has played one game with no feeling in one leg and others feeling as if his head were filled

with wet sand.

HIS 70-PERCENT completion percentage is the highest in the league and the best for his career. His third-down pass rating of 129.5 is 30 points higher than his nearest competitor.

As for his own assessment of his first half performance Young said, "(I had) three interceptions that weren't tips. Stupid. I'd say pretty good, getting better and, with linemen coming back, a lot better."

ASSESSMENT: "Pretty good." — Steve Young.

WIDE RECEIVERS

The 49ers had 1,969 yards receiving after eight games, and ranked ninth in the league in passing yardage.

Not a bad rank considering quarterback Steve Young has been limited in his steps. The 49ers like to drop their quarterback back five and seven steps. The longer drop, the more time receivers have to get downfield.

DUE TO INJURIES to offensive linemen the seven-step drop has been practically eliminated. Young would've been sacked by the time he hit his back foot on the last step. So the 49ers have worked mainly out of three- and five-step drops, which cuts down on the receiving yardage.

John Taylor underwent arthroscopic knee surgery during the bye week. Taylor's 21 receptions for 294 yards and one touchdown were the lowest mid-season totals for his career. Taylor had only eight receptions after eight games

in '92, but he was sidelined by injury then.

JERRY RICE CAUGHT 49 passes, the second-best total of his career. But his 13.9 average yardage per reception was the second-lowest of his career. Of course, this was mainly from the lack of seven-step drops by the quarterback.

Taylor should miss just one game, if that. If not, the 49ers are high on No. 3 wide receiver Nate Singleton. In his one opportunity, last year against the Eagles, Singleton caught five passes for 92 yards.

No. 4 receiver Ed McCaffrey was one of the leading receivers in the preseason, and got his first touchdown with the Niners against the Buccaneers on Oct. 23.

ASSESSMENT: C-plus, according to perfectionist Jerry Rice.



John Taylor

TIGHT END

Free agency affected the tight ends more than any other area of the team except linebacker. Gone are Jamie Williams and Wesley Walls, the backups to Brent Jones. It means Jones has done the lion's share of the receiving as well as the blocking.

JONES (30 CATCHES, 294 yards, four touchdowns) is again turning in a Pro Bowl performance. This time he might get the starting nod he deserved last year.

Backup Ted Popson has been slowed by back injury, and Brent Carolan hasn't seen much action.

ASSESSMENT: A-minus, according to Brent Jones.

RUNNING BACKS

Ricky Watters entered his third season bent on reaching incentives in his contract and was in the best physical shape of his four-year career.

BUT WATTERS GAINED only 421 yards on 112 carries, a 3.8 yards-per-carry average, after eight games. Injuries to the offensive linemen, defensive philosophies of opposing teams and maybe the 49ers' own coaches held his yardage down.

The area most affected by the offensive line woes was the running game. The club likes to run counters, traps and sweeps that demand lots of movement from linemen. There might be 20 different blocks the 49ers employ on runs and only a few different pass blocks. Thus the injuries had a great effect on the running game.

ALSO, OPPOSING DEFENSES came into games with the idea of

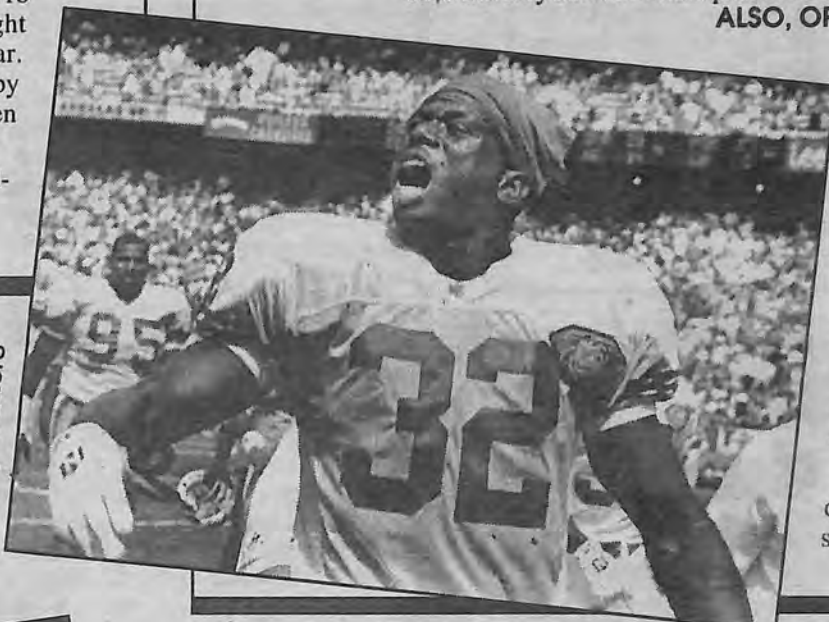
stopping Watters. They were pouncing on the 49ers' weakness, and they also figured that the run was easier to stop than the passing. If you take away the run, you've weakened the overall offense. With the injuries, Watters wanted the 49ers to use an I-formation. It would allow him to get the ball deeper in the backfield, then read when a hole breaks open.

The 49ers haven't run the I for years, and thought it was best not to start now. The result of all this was the worst rushing output since 1990. Watters didn't break the 100-yard barrier until Game 8 of the season.

The short-term future looks bright, however. With the exception of Tamm, the line is back. And Tamm's replacement, Derrick Deese, is having a fine year.

ASSESSMENT: C. Could be better with more opportunities, which the running backs should get in the second half of the season.

Ricky Watters



OFFENSIVE LINE

It's the most disruptive season offensive line coach Bobb McKittrick has experienced in 24 years in professional football. The record and the functioning without starters Ralph Tamm and Harris Barton is a "positive statement about McKittrick's coaching," Head Coach George Seifert said.

AND, HEY. what about those backups? Harry Boatswain, Frank Pollack, Chris Dalman and Derrick Deese have given fine performances. Deese picked up the system nicely and is well suited to the 49ers' style of offense. Deese still lacks experience, so Ralph Tamm will likely get his job back when his injured foot is sufficiently healed.

Apparently, his injury status is more tricky than that of right tackle Barton's. There seems to be more unknown concerning Tamm's situation. Barton tore his left tricep in the first regular-season game. Surgery was performed and a brace will be worn to

protect the arm. Other than that Barton should have no problem once he returns.

TAMM, ON THE OTHER HAND (or foot), was flown to a specialist in New York to analyze his injury. He's still experiencing pain when he runs.

Tamm will probably be worked into the lineup slowly because he was in on only 19 plays in the preseason. He doesn't have experience in the system that eight-year man Barton has, and the club gets more comfortable with Deese every week.

The offensive line should nearly be at full strength now that Barton has returned.

"We don't have one starter," McKittrick said. "I'd say that's about the league average right now."

ASSESSMENT: McKittrick gives a B-minus, which he says could be an A-minus if it hadn't suffered injuries.

Frank Pollack



SPECIAL TEAMS

As long as special teams don't hurt the cause, the 49ers seem happy. They've never been a special teams' power, and this year they aren't one, either.

Both kickers have performed well. You have to take into account the swirling winds and soft turf at Candlestick Park when analyzing the kickers. It adds a few more degrees of difficulty to their jobs. Thus, a 49ers kicker in the middle of the statistical pack compared to his NFL counterparts is doing a good job.

PUNTER KLAUS WILMSMEYER is ranked 16th in net punting. Wilmsmeyer has retained his marksmanship for dropping punts inside the 20. And rookie place-kicker Doug Brien attempted only 10 field goals through the first half of the season, fewest of any 49ers kicker since 1987.

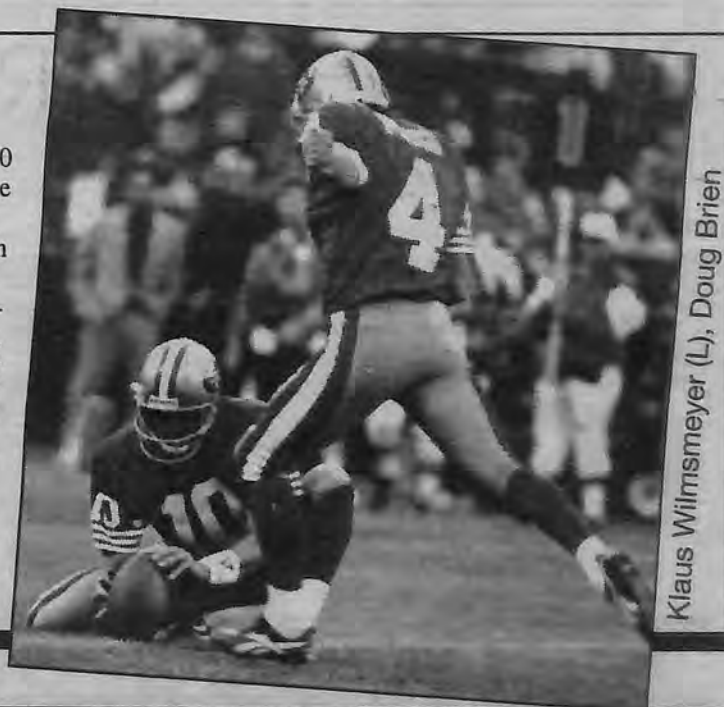
He has made good on seven of them, missing one kick

that was longer 50 yards and two between 40 and 50. Thus, he has been consistent on the medium range to short ones.

THE 49ERS RANKED 13th in the NFL in both punt and kick returns after eight weeks.

Special teams can only get better with running back Marc Logan in the fold full time. Logan was the 49ers' best special teams player last year. They also can expect better special teams play out of rookies Kevin Mitchell and Anthony Peterson, who have improved greatly since the preseason.

ASSESSMENT: "Inconsistent" — special teams coach Alan Lowry.



Klaus Wilmsmeyer (L), Doug Brien

NEXT WEEK: The defensive grades.

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9ER NUGGETS



SAN FRANCISCO LANDS SUPER BOWL

San Francisco partied like it was 1999 after the news the city had landed the 1999 Super Bowl.

The game will be played at the soon-to-be refurbished Candlestick Park, the first time the big game has ever been held there.

It's a boon for the 49ers, who will get an improved stadium in the bargain. The changes will bring the facility up to normal NFL Standards according to 49ers president Carmen Policy.

TWENTY-SIX MILLION dollars will be spent on the improvements that will include a new field drainage system, permanent bathrooms for fans outside the stadium and expanded seating. The locker room and press box will also be expanded.

Policy teamed with Mayor Frank Jordan in winning the bid at the NFL owners' meetings last week in Chicago.

"We put a lot of effort and work into it," Jordan said. "We all gave a big shout of relief

and joy when we heard."

The Super Bowl could mean as much as \$200 million to the city. San Francisco won out over Miami, the site of this year's Super Bowl.

POLICY SAID ONE reason San Francisco won was that Miami has hosted the game three times in the last 10 years. Another was the international flavor of San Francisco and the NFL's efforts to make football go global. "I think it will be neat," said tight end Brent Jones, a Bay Area native.

Jones expects to attend, but not as player. Jones will be two weeks away from 36 years old when the game is played.

"I can safely say I don't have to worry about playing it," Jones said. "But I'll be there."

It was a sentiment shared

throughout the locker room.

"In 1999 I'll be home chilling with my kids," cornerback Deion Sanders said. "You'll be calling me Old Time, not Prime Time."

SANDERS SAYS 'HAVE FUN'

Cornerback Deion Sanders had a suggestion for his teammates.

"This team is very laid back," Sanders said, "too laid back. When you're as good as this team is, it's only right to have fun. You should have fun. You've got to enjoy what you do."

SANDERS SAID THE Niners are "too tight" and "overconservative." But he took pains to say he wasn't complaining, and he said he liked his teammates. He just wishes they'd loosen up.

"Guys get tight if they drop a pass," he said. "Don't worry if you drop a damn pass. Just go out and get the next one."



LB Gary Plummer

TAMM NAMED PLAYER REP

Guard Ralph Tamm is the Niners' new player representative to the player's union. Last year's rep, Guy McIntyre, is now playing with the Packers.

Tamm was elected by vote of his teammates. Cornerback Toi Cook was chosen first alternate.

"I GUESS I'M your average, blue-collar guy," Tamm said. "I'll never be a Ken Norton-type. I've been worked over by the system, and I've also utilized the system. They want a no-nonsense type guy in there. They want someone to speak his mind, and I've been known to do that."

The brutally honest Tamm has been with four different teams in his NFL career. He's been released and also signed as a Plan B free agent. Plan B has now been replaced by true free agency, with a salary cap, of course.

FIGHT FINES LEVIED

Linebacker Gary Plummer and defensive backs Eric Davis, Toi Cook and Dedrick Dodge were all fined by the league for fighting during the Buccaneers game last month.

Plummer received a \$4,000 fine, the rest got \$2,500 fines. Plummer appealed the ruling.

"I'm going to send a video, and write an explanation as to why this incident transpired," Plummer said. "They'll have a hearing and get back to me."

PLUMMER PUSHED Bucs tight end Tyji Armstrong away from Davis, who was having his leg twisted by Armstrong. Plummer will argue he was coming to the aid of his teammate.

Armstrong was hit with a \$8,000 fine, the second he's received this season. Dodge and Davis were fined for entering the "fighting area," whatever that is. "Wrong place, wrong time," Cook said.

INJURIES

Right offensive tackle Harris Barton was returning to the lineup, but his linemate, guard Ralph Tamm, continued to rehabilitate his left heel and arch.

Barton will wear a brace to protect his injured left arm. That's where he tore his tricep in the first half of the opener against the Raiders. He missed the next seven games, returning against the Redskins this week.

TAMM TORE the plantar fascia tendon just four plays into the opener. He has been jogging, but has experienced pain. His situation is week by week.

The much anticipated return of defensive Richard Dent probably will not happen for the next few weeks. Dent is trying to come back from major knee surgery in mid-September and hopes to be back by the end of November.

ANOTHER INJURY concern is wide receiver John Taylor, who underwent arthroscopic knee surgery during the bye week. Taylor had the knee last week drained and had to have stitches inserted. He was wearing a heavy brace and was limping. The 49ers hope he can play this Sunday against the Cowboys.

Rookie cornerback Tyrone Drakeford suffered a cracked shoulder, an injury with which he can play with the help of a brace. The brace will restrict his movement slightly.

CAROLINA COMES WEST

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue placed the expansion Carolina Panthers in the four team NFC West for their first season next year. Meanwhile, the Jacksonville Jaguars will be in the AFC Central.

The two teams were assigned to the only divisions left holding only four teams.

IT MEANS THE 49ers probably will cross the Mississippi River to play all their divisional foes. The Rams are seriously considering moving to either St. Louis or Baltimore.

"I joked about moving our practice facility from Santa Clara to Columbia, Mo.," Coach George Seifert said. "If the Rams move, we'll be in the NFC West by our lonesome. We'll win the division by default."

THROW BACK UNTIL YOU THROW UP

The throwbacks are back. The vintage 1955 uniforms in which the 49ers have won five games are now in vogue.

The league gave the Niners clearance to wear the uniform anytime the team wants.

"IT'S GOOD TO have that option," Coach George Seifert said. "We will make a game-day decision, but I would imagine we'll wear them again."

Seifert likes the uniforms, and particularly likes the fact his team was unbeaten wearing them going into the Redskins game.

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MIKE
SHUMAN

The Niners were sporting a three-game winning streak prior to the bye, which might have prompted some to say, "Let's keep playing as long

THE 49ERS WERE 6-2 at the break. Harris Barton should have played in the Redskins game for the first time since the opening week. He'll definitely play against the Cowboys. Ralph Tamm's return from a foot injury is just around the corner. The Derrick Deeses of the world gained a world of experience with the starters.

Atletes are creatures of habit, however, so you don't want to have them away from the game too long. But it gives them time to spend with their families, which is a rare treat.

SOMEHOW, over the years the 49ers have always found a way into the playoffs. Good luck in the second half, guys.

I played eight years in the NFL. I was a starter for four years; I never considered myself a backup, so to answer that question I'd rather be a starter on any team, good or bad. I was in the game to play and not watch.

BUT ONLY 22 GUYS can start. That leaves 24 (not counting punters and place-kickers) wanting more. This becomes the real conflict for an athlete. You want the player ahead of you to do well so the team can win. Football is, after all, a team sport. But you don't want

Some are more naturally gifted than others.— the Jerry Rices of the the world. Rice works as hard as anyone, but there's no question he's the starter. No one ever gets comfortable being a backup.

Some will sacrifice. Ed McCaffrey wanted to play for the 49ers so he took a cut in pay and lost a starting job on the Giants to be a backup with the Niners. Ed would still like to be a starter but he's willing to wait. There are no promises in this business. He took a chance. And if a younger wide receiver joined the team, Ed would have to think hard about his future.

HE COULD ASK to be traded. If he's cut other clubs will be looking. Who would you rather sign, a player cut from the 49ers or a player cut by the Buccaneers? Thank you.

Players have to think their careers through, especially with this new salary cap. You have to decide if you want to make that move.

A good example is Dexter Carter. He would probably be a starter with any other club, but he became valuable to the Niners as a kickoff and punt returner, a running back and a wide receiver. Such versatility is an asset. He could still go and be a starter, but for now he's with the Niners.

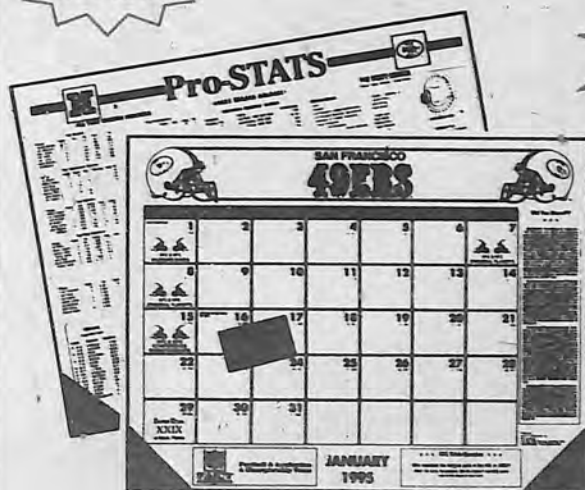
Being a starter on a losing team, which I was with the Cardinals, is no bed of roses. But at least you're working toward a goal — to be the best.

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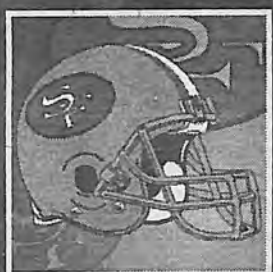


Kathleen Upham
Gold Rush

NINERS CLAIM FOURTH STRAIGHT

Big Plays Doom Redskins' Upset Hopes

GAME 9 49ERS vs. REDSKINS



	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	FINAL
49ERS	10	7	13	7	37
REDSKINS	0	3	3	16	22

49ERS win fourth in a row to go to 7-2

REDSKINS drop to 2-8

STEVE YOUNG

15-for-25 passing for 291 yards

GUS FREROTTE

15-for-32 passing for 167 yards

49ERS

outgain Redskins 421-282

RICKY WATTERS

112 combined yards

DEXTER CARTER

196 return yards

REGGIE ROBY

7 punts for a 50-yard average

By Kevin Lynch

WASHINGTON — It was the perfect opportunity for the Redskins to toss an ice cream pie into the 49ers' faces. Some figured the Niners would have never seen it coming, because they were too busy peering over the Redskins' collective shoulder pads at the Cowboys.

That opportunity was squelched by the 49ers themselves. They dealt the Redskins a 37-22 loss and avoided any semblance of humiliation. They did it behind a strong defense and a flurry of big plays. The win boosted the 49ers' record to 7-2 and kept the Falcons at arm's length in the NFC West. It also set up a showdown with the Cowboys Sunday at Candlestick Park.

The 49ers can take over the conference lead for homefield advantage in the playoffs with a victory over the Cowboys, which seems infinitely more possible after the Niners' confidence booster against the Redskins.

ALL UNITS PLAYED well for the Niners. They had a 69-yard pass play from tight end Brent Jones, a 73-yard interception return from safety Tim McDonald and a 93-yard kick return from Dexter Carter. All of them went for touchdowns. It was 49ers Big Play Day at RFK Stadium.

The offense hit the ground running, going 71 yards to a 32-yard Doug Brien field goal on the game's opening drive. After that, the defense stifled the Redskins, who were being guided by rookie quarterback Gus Frerotte.

The Redskins only gained 49 yards on their first four drives. They punted three times and were intercepted once. Even when they were graced with the luxury of field position, as occurred when linebacker Kurt Gouveia intercepted a Steve Young pass, they couldn't capitalize.

With the 49ers ahead 10-0 and threatening blowout, Gouveia plucked a tipped pass out of the air and returned to the Niners' 18. The pass was thrown high and behind running back Ricky Watters, who had to contort himself like a gymnast just to get a hand on it.

The Redskins got to the 49ers' 5 before Frerotte took a couple shots at the end zone. One was knocked away by linebacker Ken Norton and the other was overthrown because of excellent pass coverage.

THE NINERS STORMED back after a 22-yard Chip Lohmiller field goal. Young hit Jerry Rice, who weaved his way for a 55-yard catch-and-run. Rice caught a short pass then slipped an attempted tackle by cornerback Tom Carter.

Rice cut across the middle of the field to minimize traffic and was finally tackled out of bounds by one of the fastest men in the NFL, cornerback Darrell Green.

It was a nice development for Rice, who was nearly taken out of the game by safety Darryl Morrison's crushing hit. It left Rice groggy and needing to be helped from the field.

"He hit me right under the chin," Rice said. "I could see it coming, so I braced myself for it. He thought it was the greatest hit of his career. The thing about me is, I keep working."

Rice even worked in a payback block that floored Morrison

later in the game.

But what Rice does best is catch passes, and his 55-yard gem set the 49ers up for Steve Young's eventual 1-yard plunge. It gave the 49ers a 17-3 lead by halftime.

The Redskins came out of the locker room with their six-shooters blazing. On their second drive, Frerotte was moving them smoothly down the field by throwing medium-range passes. On a third-and-6 from the Niners' 22, Frerotte faded back and fired what looked to be a long pass. Safety Tim McDonald then leapt up and snared ball with one hand and brought it down with two. He had nothing but open land ahead of him.

"He found his way to the end zone," said Rice, taking a shot at McDonald's speed. "He struggled a little bit but he made it."

McDonald looked nothing short of brilliant hauling down the interception. He got more air than Rush Limbaugh with his leap.

Asked if he was surprised he made the catch, McDonald said, "You don't think I've got any hands? I never want to bat the ball down. When it's in the air, I want to catch it."

McDonald was trying to fight his way through bodies so he could get to the tight end, who he had to cover man-to-man on that play. It was the second touchdown for McDonald this season. He had a 49-yard fumble return against the Falcons on Oct. 16. It seems good things happen to McDonald when he's prowling close to the line of scrimmage.

THE 49ERS' 24-3 advantage was quickly increased to a 30-6 later in the third quarter after Carter's 93-yard kickoff return. It was a run that developed slowly, with Carter following his blocks and breaking into the clear at the last moment. Alan Grant, formerly of the 49ers, had a shot at Carter and tried to push him out of bounds, but Carter wouldn't budge.

"It was great to see Dexter Carter make a run like that," Rice said. "He has worked hard all year."

Many think Carter should now surrender his return duties to Deion

Sanders, the newly acquired cornerback.

"The offense and defense has been scoring," Carter said. "Special teams just wanted to do our part."

The return was a complete team effort. It seemed every member of the return team got more than one block. Three 49ers spun off their blocks and went downfield to nail the kicker.

"I had to jump to get at him," Marc Logan said. "We really ganged up on him. I think it was the kicker. I kind of felt sorry for him."

The Redskins started to come unglued. Frerotte fumbled a snap on the next possession and linebacker Lee Woodall recovered. Three plays later, Rice was breezing through the Redskins' defense on a reverse. It went for a 28-yard touchdown, the 134th of his career.



S Tim McDonald turned an interception into a 73-yard touchdown

WORTH NOTING

DEION PAYS TRIBUTE: CB Deion Sanders put a piece of tape with the initials "WZ" on his helmet. It was in memory to Falcons equipment man Whitey Zimmerman, who died last week. Sanders said Zimmerman was like a father to him.

INJURIES: WR John Taylor started the game despite having his knee drained and a stitch inserted after arthroscopic surgery during the bye week. Taylor was quickly pulled and replaced by Nate Singleton. It's not known how much he'll play against the Cowboys. The 49ers emerged from the game with no serious injuries. All players listed are probable — FB Marc Logan (calf), S Tim McDonald (back), LB Troy Wilson (shoulder), LB Anthony Peterson (hip) and LB Kevin Mitchell (knee).

THE TOPPER: OT Steve Wallace was outfitted with extra padding on the top of his helmet to guard

against concussion. Equipment man Bronco Hinek got the idea from the Bills, where Mark Kelso wears one. "I can go after it and hit and not worry about my head," Wallace said. He plans to wear the device for the rest of his career.

ODDS & ENDS: Since the second quarter of the Lions game, when the 49ers trailed 14-0, they have outscored their opponents 147-40 in the last 14 quarters ... WR Jerry Rice has caught at least one pass in 136 straight games ... Dexter Carter's 93-yard kickoff return was the first since he returned one 96 yards against the Saints on Dec. 1 1991 ... CB Toi Cook intercepted his first pass for the 49ers in the second quarter. He returned it 18 yards ... Tim McDonald's 73-yard interception return was the longest of his career, bettering his 53-yard effort in 1989 against the Cowboys. McDonald was on the Cardinals then.

Up 36-6, the 49ers were content to throw their game into cruise control. They settled into a prevent defense and made wholesale replacements on offense.

That's when the Redskins made a late run. John Friesz replaced Frerotte and took the Redskins on a scoring drive. Linebacker Ken Harvey later broke through and blindsided quarterback Elvis Grbac. The ball popped loose and was scooped up by Morrison, who rambled 32 yards for a touchdown.


THE REDSKINS RECOVERED an onside kick with 3:22 remaining and the Niners up 37-22. But the defense stiffened and forced the Redskins to punt.

Members of the 49ers' defense, like Tim McDonald, weren't happy.

"I think the conservative plan we used at the end of the game was frustrating," McDonald said. "We've got to tighten things up at the end of the game."

Marc Logan ran 22 yards on third-and-seven, which allowed the 49ers to sit on the ball until time expired.

"All hell broke loose at the end of the game," Coach George Seifert said.

The 49ers hope to keep playing like hell and keep the Cowboys at bay next week. 

JONES A LONG-BALL THREAT

Tight end Brent Jones needed a mixture of brains and speed to complete his 69-yard touchdown reception. The play in the first quarter gave the 49ers a 10-0 lead.

JONES SNUCK OFF the line and wasn't noticed as he rambled down the field. Steve Young threw the pass and Jones steered away from Darrell Green, one of the fastest players in the league. Green caught up and tried to tackle with a rolling block. Jones simply stepped over him for the longest touchdown reception of his career.

"I felt him right at the end."

Jones then thought of teammate John Taylor.

"John is the king of the limp leg. You just let your leg go limp, they hit it and there's nothing there."

JONES USED THE TACTIC against Green. Jones beat his own record for longest touchdown. He had a 57-yard catch-and-run against the Falcons in 1990. At that time he stiff-armed Deion Sanders to get into the end zone.

"Hey, two touchdowns against two of the fastest guys in the league, that's not bad."

— Kevin Lynch

MANN'S HAPPY RETURN

Mann handled the Redskins. That's in defensive end Charles Mann, a player who spent 11 glorious seasons in a Redskins uniform before joining the 49ers this season.

Mann was looking forward to his rematch with his old mates, but not because he was bitter. Mann and the Redskins parted ways last March after new coach Norv Turner became uncomfortable with Mann's knee rehabilitation. Turner wasn't sure Mann would be fully recovered by the season's beginning.

Mann joined the 49ers following their second game of the season and has spelled defensive ends Dennis Brown and Rickey Jackson so far.

"To be bitter after 11 years with the Redskins would almost be like being ungrateful," Mann said before the game. "You always want to do well against your old friends. You want bragging rights."

Mann certainly earned them in this game. He was able to notch his first sack of the season, against John Friesz in the fourth quarter. Mann came around the corner and spied Friesz in the pocket. With each approaching stride, he thought Friesz was going to pass the ball.

"NINE TIMES OUT OF 10 they throw the ball just before you get there," Mann said.

Not this time. Mann buried Friesz and then stood up and bowed to the crowd. Though Mann was wearing the wrong shade of red, the crowd applauded.

"It wasn't something I planned (the bow)," Mann said after the game. "I just wanted to do something classy."

Mann was told by Rickey Jackson and Deion Sanders he'd be booed, just like Jackson and Sanders expect when they face their former teams.

Instead he was cheered. Mann has poured in hours of volunteer work into the Washington community.

"When I left I made a statement saying this was my home," Mann said. "It will always be my home. I think people remember that. I might be on another team, but I'm one of them. I'm a Washingtonian."

THAT'S WHY IT WAS USUAL for Mann to be a victim of a bad call at RFK Stadium. He was called for a personal foul when he hit Friesz right after Friesz released the ball.

"He (the official) said I hit him in the head," Mann said. "I hit him in the chest. Even the quarterback said it was a bad call. I looked at him and said, 'Tell the ref that!'"

Cornerback Eric Davis made a diving interception on the play. It was his second interception this season he had taken away because of a penalty.

But, bad call and all, no one could spoil the day enjoyed by Charles Mann.

— Kevin Lynch

HOW THEY SCORED

FIRST QUARTER

49ERS — Doug Brien 32-yard field goal. Drive: 11 plays, 71 yards. Time of possession: 5:04. Time remaining: 9:04. Key plays: Ricky Watters 12 run; Watters 32 pass from Steve Young. 49ERS 7-0

49ERS — Brent Jones 69-yard pass from Young (Brien kick). Drive: 3 plays, 74 yards. Time of possession: 47. Time remaining: :00. 49ERS 10-0

SECOND QUARTER

REDSKINS — Chip Lohmiller 22-yard field goal. Drive: 6 plays, 13 yards. Time of possession: 2:08. Time remaining: 2:28. Key play: Kurt Gouveia 7 interception return. 49ERS 10-3

49ERS — Young 1-yard run (Brien kick). Drive: 4 plays, 78 yards. Time of possession: :49. Time remaining 1:29. Key plays: Jerry Rice 55 pass from Young; Watters 22 run. 49ERS 17-3

THIRD QUARTER

49ERS — Tim McDonald 73-yard interception return (Brien kick). Time remaining: 5:14. 49ERS 24-3

REDSKINS — Lohmiller 23-yard field goal. Drive: 10 plays, 64 yards. Time of possession: 4:20. Time remaining: 1:13. Key plays: Henry Ellard 23 pass from Gus Frerotte; Ellard 16 pass from Frerotte. 49ERS 24-6.

49ERS — Dexter Carter 93-yard kickoff return (pass failed). Time remaining: :56. 49ERS 30-6

FOURTH QUARTER

49ERS — Jerry Rice 28-yard run (Brien kick). Drive: 3 plays, 41 yards. Time of possession: 1:47. Time remaining: 14:52. Key plays: Lee Woodall fumble recovery at Redskins' 41; William Floyd 14 pass from Young. 49ERS 37-6

REDSKINS — Ethan Horton 4-yard pass from John Friesz (Brien Mitchell run). Drive: 9 plays, 77 yards. Time of possession: 2:48. Time remaining: 7:10. Key plays: Henry Ellard 18 pass from Friesz. 49ERS 37-14.

49ERS — Darryl Morrison 32-yard fumble return (Tydus Winans pass from Friesz). Time remaining: 3:31. 49ERS 37-22

FOGHORN PRESS PRESENTS 49ERS REPORT

PLAYER OF THE GAME



TIM McDONALD

Tim McDonald had a career day. He intercepted a pass and took it 73 yards for a touchdown, his second of the season. He also led the team in tackles with eight. For his effort, McDonald was named 49ers Report Player of the Game.

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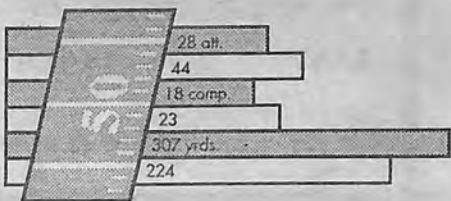
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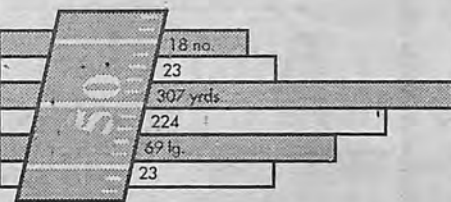
BY THE NUMBERS

GAME STATS

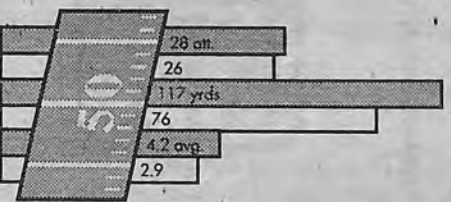
PASSING	Att	Comp	Yds	Sks/Yds	TD	Lg	Int
49ers							
Young	25	15	291	1/3	1	69	1
Grbac	3	3	16	1/0	0	7	0
Total	28	18	307	2/3	1	69	1
Redskins							
Frerotte	32	15	167	2/10	0	23	2
Friesz	12	8	57	1/8	1	18	0
Total	44	23	224	3/18	1	23	2



RECEIVING	No	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers				
Walters	6	66	38	0
Floyd	4	36	14	0
Rice	3	90	55	0
Singleton	2	37	29	0
Jones	1	69	69	0
Carter	1	5	5	0
Logan	1	4	4	0
Totals	18	307	69	1
Redskins				
Ellard	7	93	23	0
Ervin	7	41	11	0
Winans	4	52	17	0
Horton	2	17	13	1
Howard	1	12	12	0
Mitchell	1	6	6	0
Smith	1	3	3	0
Totals	23	224	23	1



RUSHING	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
49ers					
Walters	11	46	4.2	22	0
Logan	7	39	5.6	22	0
Rice	1	28	28.0	28	1
Loville	3	9	3.0	5	0
Young	1	1	1.0	1	0
Floyd	4	-1	-0.3	6	0
Carter	1	-5	-5.0	-5	0
Total	28	117	4.2	28	2
Redskins					
Ervin	18	52	2.9	9	0
Mitchell	5	17	3.4	7	0
Winans	1	5	5.0	5	0
Smith	1	2	2.0	2	0
Frerotte	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	26	76	2.9	9	0



INTERCEPTIONS	No	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers				
McDonald	1	73	73	1
Cook	1	18	18	0
Total	2	91	73	1
Redskins				
Gouveia	1	7	7	0
Total	1	7	7	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers				
Carter	4	148	96	1
Totals	4	148	96	1
Redskins				
Mitchell	5	136	42	0
Bell	1	18	18	0
Totals	6	154	42	0

PUNTING	No	Yds	Avg	TB	In20	Lg
49ers						
Wilmsmeyer	4	170	42.5	1	1	53
Totals	4	170	42.5	1	1	53
Redskins						
Roby	7	350	50.0	1	1	65
Totals	7	350	50.0	1	1	65

PUNT RETURNS	No	FC	Yds	Lg	TD
49ers					
Carter	5	0	48	16	0
Totals	5	0	48	16	0
Redskins					
Mitchell	2	1	14	11	0
Totals	2	1	14	11	0

TEAM STATISTICS	49ers	Redskins
Total First Downs	17	20
By Rushing	6	3
By Penalty	0	2
Third Down Efficiency	6-12-50%	5-16-31%
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-0-0%	0-0-0%
Total Net Yards	421	282
Total Offensive Plays	58	73
Avg. Gain Per Offensive Play	7.3	3.9
Net Yards Rushing	117	76
Total Rushing Plays	28	26
Avg. Gain Per Rushing Play	4.2	2.9
Net Yards Passing	304	206
Times Thrown/Yards Lost	2/3	3/18
Gross Yards Passing	307	224
Pass Att.-Comp.-Int.	28-18-1	44-23-2
Avg. Gain Per Passing Play	10.1	4.4
Punts/Average	4-42.5	7-50.0
Had Blocked	0	0
Yards on Punt Returns	48	14
Yards on Kickoff Returns	148	154
Yards on Interception Returns	91	7
Penalties/Yards	7-60	5-25
Fumbles/Lost	1-1	3-1
Touchdowns	5	2
Rushing	2	0
Passing	1	1
Returns	2	1
Extra points Made/Attempted	4/5	2/2
Kicking Made/Attempts	4/4	0/0
Passing Made/Attempts	0/1	2/2
Field Goals Made/Attempted	1/1	2/2
Time of Possession	27:35	32:25

SEASON STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	49ers	Opponents
Total First Downs	185	170
By Rushing	63	54
By Passing	106	101
By Penalty	16	15
Third Down Made/Att.	53/110	50/125
Third Down Efficiency	48.2%	40.0%
Fourth Down Made/Att.	8/11	7/11
Fourth Down Efficiency	72.7%	63.6%
Total Net Yards	3167	2639
Avg. Per Game	351.2	293.2
Total Offensive Plays	559	571
Avg. Gain Per Offensive Play	5.7	4.6
Net Yards Rushing	994	833
Avg. Per Game	110.4	92.6
Total Rushing Plays	259	230
Net Yards Passing	2162	1806
Avg. Per Game	240.2	200.7
Sacks/Yards Lost	23/106	19/138
Gross Yards Passing	2276	1944
Att./Comp.	277/190	324/185
Pct. of Completions	68.6	57.1
Had Intercepted	8	11
Punts/Average	31/42.2	44/45.1
Penalties/Yards	59/547	56/462
Fumbles/Lost	11/6	14/6
Touchdowns	36	20
Rushing	14	8
Passing	17	11
Returns	5	1

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Name						
Brien	1/1	1/1	4/4	2/4	0/1	8/11
Total	1/1	1/1	4/4	2/4	0/1	8/11
Opp. Total	0/0	5/5	3/3	0/1	0/3	8/12

PUNTING	No	Yds	Avg	TB	In20	Lg
Name						
Wilmsmeyer	31	1308	42.2	2	9	60
Total	31	1308	42.2	2	9	60
Opp. Total	44	1984	45.1	8	11	65

PUNT RETURNS	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Name						
Carter	21	5	201	9.6	22	0
Total	21	5	201	9.6	22	0
Opp. Total	17	5	173	10.2	43	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Name					
Carter	29	724	25.0	96	1
Loville	2	34	17.0	19	0
Singleton	2	23	11.5	17	0
Total	33	781	23.7	96	1
Opp. Total	47	1089	23.2	51	0

SCORING	Name	TDR	TDP	TDRt	PAT	FG	S	2pt	TP
	Brien	0	0	0	32	8	0	0	56
	Rice	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	48
	Walters	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	36
	Jones	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	32
	Young	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
	Floyd	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
	Sanders	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	12
	Logan	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
	Taylor	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Hall	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
	McCaftrey	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Singleton	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
	McDonald	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
	Carter	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6
Total	14	17	5	32	8	0	1	274	
Opp. Total	8	11	1	14	8	2	5	172	

RECEIVING	Name	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
	Rice	52	790	15.2	69	6
	Walters	41	381	9.3	46	2
	Jones	31	420	13.5	69	5
	Taylor	21	294	14.0	35	1
	Logan	16	97	6.1	15	1
	Singleton	11	142	12.9	42	1
	Floyd	11	94	8.5	15	0
	McCaftrey	5	49	9.8	15	1
	Carter	2	15	7.5	10	0
	Popson	1	14	14.0	14	0
Total	190	2276	12.0	69	17	
Opp. Total	185	1944	10.5	38	11	

RUSHING	Name	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
	Walters	123	467	3.8	23	4
	Logan	33	143	4.3	20	1
	Young	26	130	5.0	27	4
	Floyd	40	114	2.9	25	1
	Loville	22	68	3.1	9	0
	Rice	4	61	15.3	28	2
	Carter	3	20	6.7	18	0
	Walker	1	0	0.0	0	0
	Taylor	2	-2	-1.0	1	0
	Grbac	5	-5	-1.0	-1	0
Total	259	994	3.9	28	14	
Opp. Total	230	833	3.6	28	8	

PASSING	Name	Att	Comp	Yds	Pct	Avg/Att	TD	%TD	Int	%Int	Lg	Lost/Att
	Young	259	179	2138	69.1	8.3	16	6.2	8	3.1	69	20/88
	Grbac	18	11	138	61.1	7.7	1	5.6	0	0.0	42	3/18
Total	277	190	2276	68.6	8.2	17	6.2	8	2.9	69	23/106	
Opp. Total	324	185	1944	57.1	6.0	11	3.4	11	3.4	38	19/138	

Sacks: Dent (2.5) Jackson (2); Thomas (1); Stubblefield (6); B. Young (3.5); Kelly (1); Wilson (2); Mann (1)
Special Teams Tackles: Brien (3); Dodge (9); Hardy (2); Singleton (5); Mitchell (9); Wilmsmeyer (1); Wilson (8); Loville (4); Goss (6); Peterson (3); Plummer (2); McCaffrey (5); Woodall (1); Hall (2); Thomas (1); Drakeford (2)
Misc. Tackles: Deese (1); B. Young (1); Dalman (2); Rice (1); Loville (1); Jones (1); Walters (1)

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS			
Name	Tackles	Assists	Total
McDonald	42	2	44
Norton	37	6	43
Davis	40	2	42
Woodall	31	10	41
Hanks	36	1	37
Plummer	32	4	36
B. Young	24	2	26
Stubblefield	23	2	25
D. Hall	16	7	23
Jackson	22	1	23
Sanders	14	2	16
Brown	11	1	12
Cook	9	1	10
Mann	10	0	10
Dent	8	0	8
Dodge	5	0	5
Peterson	4	0	4
Kelly	3	0	3
Drakefield	2	1	3
Mitchell	2	0	2
Thomas	2	0	2
Wilson	1	0	1
R. Hall	1	0	1
Logan	0	1	1
Ar. Smith	1	0	1

1994 NFL SCHEDULE

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

BENGALS 1-8

Sept. 4	Cleveland	20-28
Sept. 11	at San Diego	10-27
Sept. 18	New England	28-31
Sept. 25	at Houston	13-20
Oct. 2	Miami	7-23
Oct. 9	OPEN	
Oct. 16	at Pittsburgh	10-14
Oct. 23	at Cleveland	13-37
Oct. 30	Dallas	20-23
Nov. 6	at Seattle	20-17 O.T.
Nov. 13	Houston	
Nov. 20	Indianapolis	
Nov. 27	at Denver	
Dec. 4	Pittsburgh	
Dec. 11	at N.Y. Giants	
Dec. 18	at Arizona	
Dec. 24	Philadelphia	

BROWNS 7-2

Sept. 4	at Cincinnati	28-20
Sept. 11	Pittsburgh	10-17
Sept. 18	Arizona	32-0
Sept. 25	at Indianapolis	21-14
Oct. 2	N.Y. Jets	27-7
Oct. 9	OPEN	
Oct. 16	at Houston	11-8
Oct. 23	Cincinnati	37-13
Oct. 30	at Denver	14-26
Nov. 6	New England	13-6
Nov. 13	at Philadelphia	
Nov. 20	at Kansas City	
Nov. 27	Houston	
Dec. 4	N.Y. Giants	
Dec. 10	at Dallas	
Dec. 18	at Pittsburgh	
Dec. 24	Seattle	

OILERS 1-8

Sept. 4	at Indianapolis	21-45
Sept. 11	at Dallas	17-20
Sept. 18	Buffalo	7-15
Sept. 25	Cincinnati	20-13
Oct. 2	at Pittsburgh	14-30
Oct. 9	OPEN	
Oct. 16	Cleveland	8-11
Oct. 23	at Philadelphia	6-21
Oct. 30	at L.A. Raiders	14-17
Nov. 6	Pittsburgh	9-12 O.T.
Nov. 13	at Cincinnati	
Nov. 20	N.Y. Giants	
Nov. 27	at Cleveland	
Dec. 4	Arizona	
Dec. 11	Seattle	
Dec. 18	at Kansas City	
Dec. 24	N.Y. Jets	

STEELERS 6-3

Sept. 4	Dallas	9-26
Sept. 11	at Cleveland	17-10
Sept. 18	Indianapolis	31-21
Sept. 25	at Seattle	13-30
Oct. 2	Houston	30-14
Oct. 9	OPEN	
Oct. 16	Cincinnati	14-10
Oct. 23	at N.Y. Giants	10-6
Oct. 30	at Arizona	17-20
Nov. 6	at Houston	12-9 O.T.
Nov. 13	Buffalo	
Nov. 20	Miami	
Nov. 27	at L.A. Raiders	
Dec. 4	at Cincinnati	
Dec. 11	Philadelphia	
Dec. 18	Cleveland	
Dec. 24	at San Diego	

BILLS 6-3

Sept. 4	N.Y. Jets	3-23
Sept. 11	at New England	38-35
Sept. 18	at Houston	15-7
Sept. 25	Denver	27-20
Oct. 2	at Chicago	13-20
Oct. 9	Miami	21-11
Oct. 16	Indianapolis	17-27
Oct. 23	OPEN	
Oct. 30	Kansas City	44-10
Nov. 6	at N.Y. Jets	14-22
Nov. 13	at Pittsburgh	
Nov. 20	Green Bay	
Nov. 27	at Detroit	
Dec. 4	at Miami	
Dec. 11	Minnesota	
Dec. 18	New England	
Dec. 24	at Indianapolis	

BRONCOS 3-6

Sept. 4	San Diego	34-37
Sept. 11	at N.Y. Jets	22-25 O.T.
Sept. 18	L.A. Raiders	16-48
Sept. 25	at Buffalo	20-27
Oct. 2	OPEN	
Oct. 9	at Seattle	16-9
Oct. 16	Kansas City	28-31
Oct. 23	at San Diego	20-15
Oct. 30	Cleveland	26-14
Nov. 6	at L.A. Rams	21-27
Nov. 13	Seattle	
Nov. 20	Atlanta	
Nov. 27	Cincinnati	
Dec. 4	at Kansas City	
Dec. 11	at L.A. Raiders	
Dec. 18	at San Francisco	
Dec. 24	New Orleans	

COLTS 4-6

Sept. 4	Houston	45-21
Sept. 11	at Tampa Bay	10-24
Sept. 18	at Pittsburgh	21-31
Sept. 25	Cleveland	14-21
Oct. 2	Seattle	17-15
Oct. 9	at N.Y. Jets	6-16
Oct. 16	at Buffalo	27-17
Oct. 23	Washington	27-41
Oct. 30	N.Y. Jets	28-25
Nov. 6	at Miami	21-22
Nov. 13	OPEN	
Nov. 20	at Cincinnati	
Nov. 27	New England	
Dec. 4	at Seattle	
Dec. 11	at New England	
Dec. 18	Miami	
Dec. 24	Buffalo	

CHIEFS 6-3

Sept. 4	at New Orleans	30-17
Sept. 11	San Francisco	24-17
Sept. 18	at Atlanta	30-10
Sept. 25	L.A. Rams	0-16
Oct. 2	OPEN	
Oct. 9	at San Diego	6-20
Oct. 16	at Denver	31-28
Oct. 23	Seattle	38-23
Oct. 30	at Buffalo	10-44
Nov. 6	L.A. Raiders	13-3
Nov. 13	San Diego	
Nov. 20	Cleveland	
Nov. 27	at Seattle	
Dec. 4	Denver	
Dec. 11	at Miami	
Dec. 18	Houston	
Dec. 24	at L.A. Raiders	

DOLPHINS 7-2

Sept. 4	New England	39-35
Sept. 11	Green Bay	24-14
Sept. 18	N.Y. Jets	28-14
Sept. 25	at Minnesota	35-38
Oct. 2	at Cincinnati	23-7
Oct. 9	at Buffalo	11-21
Oct. 16	L.A. Raiders	20-17 O.T.
Oct. 23	OPEN	
Oct. 30	at New England	23-3
Nov. 6	Indianapolis	22-21
Nov. 13	Chicago	
Nov. 20	at Pittsburgh	
Nov. 27	at N.Y. Jets	
Dec. 4	Buffalo	
Dec. 11	Kansas City	
Dec. 18	at Indianapolis	
Dec. 24	Detroit	

RAIDERS 4-5

Sept. 4	at San Francisco	14-44
Sept. 11	Seattle	9-38
Sept. 18	at Denver	48-16
Sept. 25	San Diego	24-26
Oct. 2	OPEN	
Oct. 9	at New England	21-17
Oct. 16	at Miami	17-20 O.T.
Oct. 23	Atlanta	30-17
Oct. 30	Houston	17-14
Nov. 6	at Kansas City	3-13
Nov. 13	at L.A. Rams	
Nov. 20	New Orleans	
Nov. 27	Pittsburgh	
Dec. 4	at San Diego	
Dec. 11	Denver	
Dec. 18	at Seattle	
Dec. 24	Kansas City	

PATRIOTS 3-6

Sept. 4	at Miami	35-39
Sept. 11	Buffalo	35-38
Sept. 18	at Cincinnati	31-28
Sept. 25	at Detroit	23-17
Oct. 2	Green Bay	17-16
Oct. 9	L.A. Raiders	17-21
Oct. 16	at N.Y. Jets	17-24
Oct. 23	OPEN	
Oct. 30	Miami	3-23
Nov. 6	at Cleveland	6-13
Nov. 13	Minnesota	
Nov. 20	San Diego	
Nov. 27	at Indianapolis	
Dec. 4	N.Y. Jets	
Dec. 11	Indianapolis	
Dec. 18	at Buffalo	
Dec. 24	at Chicago	

CHARGERS 7-2

Sept. 4	at Denver	37-34
Sept. 11	Cincinnati	27-10
Sept. 18	at Seattle	24-10
Sept. 25	at L.A. Raiders	26-24
Oct. 2	OPEN	
Oct. 9	Kansas City	20-6
Oct. 16	at New Orleans	36-22
Oct. 23	Denver	15-20
Oct. 30	Seattle	35-15
Nov. 6	at Atlanta	9-10
Nov. 13	at Kansas City	
Nov. 20	at New England	
Nov. 27	L.A. Rams	
Dec. 4	San Francisco	
Dec. 11	at N.Y. Jets	
Dec. 18	at Pittsburgh	
Dec. 24	Pittsburgh	

JETS 5-4

Sept. 4	at Buffalo	23-3
Sept. 11	Denver	25-22 O.T.
Sept. 18	at Miami	14-28
Sept. 25	Chicago	7-19
Oct. 2	at Cleveland	7-27
Oct. 9	Indianapolis	16-6
Oct. 16	New England	24-17
Oct. 23	OPEN	
Oct. 30	at Indianapolis	25-28
Nov. 6	Buffalo	22-14
Nov. 13	at Green Bay	
Nov. 20	at Minnesota	
Nov. 27	Miami	
Dec. 4	at New England	
Dec. 11	Detroit	
Dec. 18	San Diego	
Dec. 24	at Houston	

SEAHAWKS 3-6

Sept. 4	at Washington	28-7
Sept. 11	at L.A. Raiders	38-9
Sept. 18	San Diego	10-24
Sept. 25	Pittsburgh	30-13
Oct. 2	at Indianapolis	15-17
Oct. 9	Denver	9-16
Oct. 16	OPEN	
Oct. 23	at Kansas City	23-38
Oct. 30	at San Diego	15-35
Nov. 6	Cincinnati	17-20 O.T.
Nov. 13	at Denver	
Nov. 20	Tampa Bay	
Nov. 27	Kansas City	
Dec. 4	Indianapolis	
Dec. 11	at Houston	
Dec. 18	L.A. Raiders	
Dec. 24	at Cleveland	

FALCONS 5-4

Sept. 4	at Detroit	28-31 O.T.
Sept. 11	L.A. Rams	31-13
Sept. 18	Kansas City	10-30
Sept. 25	at Washington	27-20
Oct. 2	at L.A. Rams	8-5
Oct. 9	Tampa Bay	34-13
Oct. 16	San Francisco	3-42
Oct. 23	at L.A. Raiders	17-30
Oct. 30	OPEN	
Nov. 6	San Diego	10-9
Nov. 13	at New Orleans	
Nov. 20	at Denver	
Nov. 27	Philadelphia	
Dec. 4	at San Francisco	
Dec. 11	New Orleans	
Dec. 18	Green Bay	
Dec. 24	Arizona	

RAMS 4-5

Sept. 4	Arizona	14-12
Sept. 11	at Atlanta	13-31
Sept. 18	San Francisco	19-34
Sept. 25	at Kansas City	16-0
Oct. 2	Atlanta	5-8
Oct. 9	at Green Bay	17-24
Oct. 16	N.Y. Giants	17-10
Oct. 23	at New Orleans	34-37
Oct. 30	OPEN	
Nov. 6	Denver	27-21
Nov. 13	L.A. Raiders	
Nov. 20	at San Francisco	
Nov. 27	at San Diego	
Dec. 4	New Orleans	
Dec. 11	at Tampa Bay	
Dec. 18	at Chicago	
Dec. 24	Washington	

SAINTS 3-6

Sept. 4	Kansas City	17-30
Sept. 11	Washington	24-38
Sept. 18	at Tampa Bay	9-7
Sept. 25	at San Francisco	14-23
Oct. 2	N.Y. Giants	27-22
Oct. 9	at Chicago	7-17
Oct. 16	San Diego	22-36
Oct. 23	L.A. Rams	37-34
Oct. 30	OPEN	
Nov. 6	at Minnesota	20-21
Nov. 13	Atlanta	
Nov. 20	at L.A. Raiders	
Nov. 27	San Francisco	
Dec. 4	at L.A. Rams	
Dec. 11	at Atlanta	
Dec. 18	Dallas	
Dec. 24	at Denver	

49ERS 7-2

Sept. 5	L.A. Raiders	44-14
Sept. 11	at Kansas City	17-24
Sept. 18	at L.A. Rams	34-19
Sept. 25	New Orleans	24-13
Oct. 2	Philadelphia	8-40
Oct. 9	at Detroit	27-21
Oct. 16	at Atlanta	42-3
Oct. 23	Tampa Bay	41-16
Oct. 30	OPEN	
Nov. 6	at Washington	37-22
Nov. 13	Dallas	
Nov. 20	L.A. Rams	
Nov. 27	at New Orleans	
Dec. 4	Atlanta	
Dec. 11	at San Diego	
Dec. 18	Denver	
Dec. 24	at Minnesota	

COWBOYS 7-1

Sept. 4	at Pittsburgh	29-6
Sept. 11	Houston	20-17
Sept. 18	Detroit	17-20 O.T.
Sept. 25	OPEN	
Oct. 2	at Washington	34-7
Oct. 9	Arizona	38-3
Oct. 16	Philadelphia	24-13
Oct. 23	at Arizona	28-21
Oct. 30	at Cincinnati	23-20
Nov. 6	N.Y. Giants	
Nov. 13	at San Francisco	
Nov. 20	Washington	
Nov. 27	Green Bay	
Dec. 4	at Philadelphia	
Dec. 11	Cleveland	
Dec. 18	at New Orleans	
Dec. 24	at N.Y. Giants	

BEARS 5-4

Sept. 4	Tampa Bay	21-9
Sept. 11	at Philadelphia	22-30
Sept. 18	Minnesota	14-42
Sept. 25	at N.Y. Jets	19-7
Oct. 2	Buffalo	20-13
Oct. 9	New Orleans	17-7
Oct. 16	OPEN	
Oct. 23	at Detroit	16-21
Oct. 30	Green Bay	6-33
Nov. 6	at Tampa Bay	20-6
Nov. 13	at Miami	
Nov. 20	Detroit	
Nov. 27	at Arizona	
Dec. 4	at Minnesota	
Dec. 11	at Green Bay	
Dec. 18	L.A. Rams	
Dec. 24	New England	

GIANTS 3-5

Sept. 4	Philadelphia	28-23
Sept. 11	at Arizona	20-17
Sept. 18	Washington	31-23
Sept. 25	OPEN	
Oct. 2	at New Orleans	22-27
Oct. 9	Minnesota	10-27
Oct. 16	at L.A. Rams	10-17
Oct. 23	Pittsburgh	6-10
Oct. 30	Detroit	25-28 O.T.
Nov. 6	at Dallas	
Nov. 13	Arizona	
Nov. 20	at Houston	
Nov. 27	at Washington	
Dec. 4	at Cleveland	
Dec. 11	Cincinnati	
Dec. 18	at Philadelphia	
Dec. 24	Dallas	

LIONS 4-5

Sept. 4	Atlanta	31-28 O.T.
Sept. 11	at Minnesota	3-10
Sept. 19	at Dallas	20-17 O.T.
Sept. 25	New England	17-23
Oct. 2	at Tampa Bay	14-24
Oct. 9	San Francisco	21-27
Oct. 16	OPEN	
Oct. 23	Chicago	21-16
Oct. 30	at N.Y. Giants	28-25 O.T.
Nov. 6	Green Bay	30-38
Nov. 13	Tampa Bay	
Nov. 20	at Chicago	
Nov. 24	Buffalo	
Dec. 4	Green Bay	
Dec. 10	at N.Y. Jets	
Dec. 17	Minnesota	
Dec. 25	at Miami	

PREVIEW

49ERS

ROSTER AND DEPTH CHART

4	Brien, Doug	K	QB
8	Young, Steve	P	QB
10	Wilmsmeyer, Klaus	QB	QB
14	Musgrave, Bill	RB	RB
18	Grbac, Elvis	CB	CB
20	Loville, Derek	CB	CB
21	Sanders, Deion	CB	CB
22	Drakeford, Tyrone	CB	CB
25	Davis, Eric	RB	RB
27	Walker, Adam	S	S
28	Hall, Dana	S	S
32	Watters, Ricky	RB	RB
33	Dodge, Dedrick	S	S
35	Carter, Dexter	RB	RB
36	Hanks, Merton	S	S
40	Floyd, William	FB	FB
41	Cook, Toi	CB	CB
43	Logan, Marc	FB	FB
46	McDonald, Tim	S	S
50	Plummer, Gary	LB	LB
51	Norton, Ken	LB	LB
53	Peterson, Anthony	LB	LB
54	Woodall, Lee	S	S
55	Mitchell, Kevin	LB	LB
57	Jackson, Rickey	LB	LB
58	Kelly, Todd	DE	DE
61	Sapolu, Jesse	G-C	G-C
63	Deese, Derrick	S	S
64	Tamm, Ralph	G-C	G-C
65	Boatswain, Harry	T	T
68	Oates, Bart	C	C
67	Dalman, Chris	G-C	G-C
69	Milstead, Rod	G	G
71	Mann, Charles	DE	DE
72	Thomas, Mark	DE	DE
74	Wallace, Steve	T	T
75	Pollack, Frank	T	T
77	Bollinger, Brian	G	G
79	Barton, Harris	T	T
80	Rice, Jerry	WR	WR
81	Owens, Darrick	WR	WR
82	Taylor, John	WR	WR
84	Jones, Brent	TE	TE
85	Popson, Ted	TE	TE
86	Carolan, Brett	TE	TE
88	Singleton, Nate	WR	WR
89	McCaftrey, Ed	WR	WR
92	Wilson, Troy	DE	DE
94	Stubblefield, Dana	DT	DT
95	Dent, Richard	DE	DE
96	Brown, Dennis	DE	DE
97	Young, Bryant	DT	DT
98	Goss, Antonio	LB	LB

OFFENSE

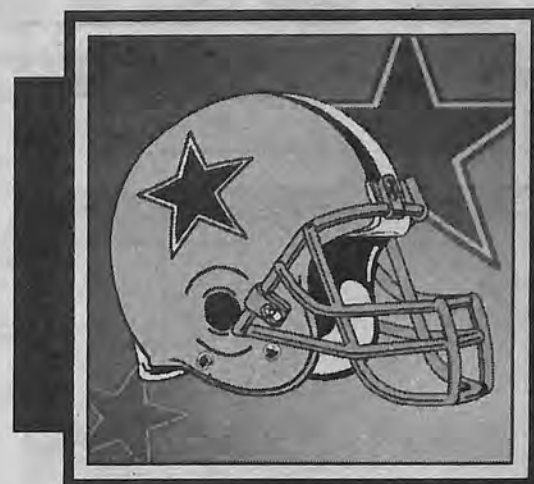
WR-82-TAYLOR, 88-Singleton
LT-74-WALLACE, 75-Pollack
LG-67-DALMAN, 61-Sapolu
C-66-OATES, 67-Dalman
RG-63-DEESE, 77-Bollinger
RT-75-POLLACK, 65-Boatswain
TE-84-JONES, 85-Popson
WR-80-RICE, 83-McCaftrey
QB-8-YOUNG, 18-Grbac
RB-32-WATTERS, 35-Carter
FB-40-FLOYD, 43-Logan

DEFENSE

LE-96-BROWN, 71-Mann
LT-97-YOUNG, 72-Thomas
RT-94-STUBBLEFIELD, 72-Thomas
RE-57-JACKSON, 92-Wilson
LLB-54-WOODALL, 98-Goss
MLB-50-PLUMMER, 55-Mitchell
RLB-51-NORTON, 53-Peterson
LCB-25-DAVIS, 41-Cook
RCB-21-SANDERS, 41-Cook
SS-46-McDONALD, 68-Hall
FS-36-HANKS, 68-Hall

SPECIAL TEAMS

P-4-BRIEN, 10-Wilmsmeyer
K-10-WILMSMEYER
H-10-WILMSMEYER, 18-Grbac
KC-68-OATES
PC-68-OATES
PR-35-D.CARTER, 88-Singleton
KR-88-SINGLETON, 35-Carter



COWBOYS

VS.



49ERS

They have been eyeing each other ever since the season started. They don't have to do it any longer, for it's Cowboys week.

The 49ers and that L'il Ol' Team From Texas will renew hostilities Sunday at Candlestick Park.

Much has happened since the 49ers were gutted by the Cowboys, 38-21 in last season's NFC Championship game. Since then the entire 49ers organization experienced what Head Coach George Seifert termed "suicidal" emotions.

Emerging from their funk, the 49ers retooled their defense by firing their linebackers coach, bringing in a new defensive coordinator and making a flurry of personnel changes. The Niners now hope they have the ammunition to shoot down a Cowboys offense stacked with eight Pro Bowlers.

"YOU CAN'T JUST bring a defense together by bringing in guys," current Cowboys and former Niners linebacker Charles Haley said. "It takes time for people to get used to each other, to get comfortable in the scheme. What we've got here is something that takes time to get together."



Aikman vs. 49ers

Cowboys QB Troy Aikman is 3-1 vs. the 49ers, winning the last three. Overall, he's 68-for-108 (63 pct.) for 838 yards with five TDs, one interception and nine sacks. Over the last three games he hasn't thrown an interception, has completed 59 of 68 (67.8 pct.) for 742 yards with the five TDs and seven sacks.



RB Emmitt Smith

Certainly, the 49ers have experienced their growing pains on defense. But despite a pang here and there, their defense looks to have come together nicely. They now have a Deion Sanders for the Cowboys' Michael Irvin, a Ken Norton for their Emmitt Smith, and so on.

The personnel is there for the 49ers to compete with the champions. What they need is character. In both losses to the Cowboys last year (Game 6 and the championship)

the 49ers were unable to stop the Cowboys' counterpunch.

THE NINERS snatched a 17-16 lead in the third quarter of the regular-season match. But the offense mysteriously became dormant and the defense turned porous. The Cowboys reeled off 10 unanswered points for a 26-17 victory.

In the championship tilt, the defense was steamrolled and the 49ers trailed 28-7 at halftime. But there was a flicker of hope when they scored in the third period and narrowed the Cowboys' lead to 28-14. Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman exited with a concussion after getting a knee to the head.

"I thought we might be back in it," Seifert said.

Cowboys backup quarterback Bernie Kosar then found Alvin Harper for a 42-yard catch-and-run, a touchdown and the proverbial nail hammered into the 49ers' coffin.

WHEN THE COWBOYS HAVE THE BALL

The Cowboys have been able to win because their offense is based on a running back—Emmitt Smith. The 49ers base their attack on Steve Young, a quarterback, which makes them potentially more explosive, but prone to turnovers. In the last three games against the Cowboys, Smith has turned over the ball once and Young has turned it over four times. The Niners have been able to contain Smith, but they've failed to cover him as a receiver. In those two championship games Smith caught 14 passes for 144 yards and two touchdowns. In both games Smith was able to take advantage of the mismatch between him and the 49ers' inside linebackers. With the signing of Ken Norton Jr. and Gary Plummer, the 49ers might have solved the problem. One way to keep Smith in the backfield is to blitz, which forces him to stay in and block. The 49ers have held Smith under 4 yards per carry. This needs to continue and it should be easier. The Cowboys have lost guard Kevin Gogan, who killed the 49ers last year, to free agency. Offensive tackle Mark Tuinei has been slowed by leg problems, and offensive tackle Eric Williams might miss the game entirely after being injured in a car accident two weeks ago. The Niners improved the defensive line by drafting Bryant Young and developing Dana Stubblefield. Both need to close the inside lanes to succeed against Smith.

WHEN THE 49ERS HAVE THE BALL

The 49ers wanted to win the coin toss at the start of the 1993 NFC Championship game, then march downfield and score. They lost the toss and the Cowboys took the opening drive into the end zone. The 49ers' offense has been halted by turnovers in the last three losses to the Cowboys, who hold an 8-1 turnover edge in those games. They have all the weapons the Cowboys have at the skill positions. In the regular-season loss the 49ers got fancy, going with a lot of three-receiver sets and using running back Ricky Watters as a decoy. That offense moved the ball well but stalled in the red zone. The 49ers might want to try what the Cowboys tried Emmitt Smith last year—use Watters as a receiver over the middle. He can outrun the linebackers and has the ability to break tackles in the secondary. The Niners also need to mix in a few wrinkles without straying from the basic offense. For example, they could line up wide receiver John Taylor (if his right knee is ready) as a tight end and have him work the underneath zones, where his speed could be a factor. The Cowboys will likely double-cover the outside receivers and force the 49ers to beat them down the middle of the field with their tight ends and backs, which the 49ers can do.

GAME 9

ETC.

Young vs. Cowboys: As a 49ers, Young is 0-3 vs. the Cowboys. In those games he's 76-for-108 (70.4 pct.) for 867 yards, with three TDs, 3 interceptions and 11 sacks.

FACTS & FIGURES

DATE: Sunday, Nov. 13
SITE: Candlestick Park
KICKOFF: 1 p.m.
SURFACE: Grass

TELEVISION: Fox (Channel 2 in Bay Area)
SERIES: Cowboys, 11-10-1
LAST MEETING: Cowboys 38, 49ers 21, Jan. 23 in the NFC Championship game.

WORTH NOTING

CAUTION, CHILDREN AT PLAY: The Jimmy Johnson-Barry Switzer feud took a turn for the ridiculous recently. Johnson, the Cowboys' former coach, accused Switzer, the current coach, of not performing his job properly. The tiff occurred when Switzer decided to take off the night before the Sept. 10 game against the Oilers to watch his son, a quarterback at Missouri Southern, play a college game. "I said it was surprising that a guy who'd been lying on his couch for five years and then got the best coaching job in football would have something better to do (on) the night before the home opener of his first season with the Cowboys," Johnson told Sports Illustrated. "If the head coach isn't going to be there, they ought to cancel the meetings." Switzer responded saying it was no wonder Johnson hadn't discovered marital bliss, or words to that effect. Johnson divorced his wife and said he was devoted to football. While Switzer's own marital history isn't anything to brag about, he said he's always been a loving father. "There's nothing I can do for (players) Saturday night," Switzer said. "You can only tell your team so much. That 'Win One For The Gipper' stuff is Hollywood. It doesn't work and I don't do it."

SWITZER THE SCHMOOZER: Switzer has missed a couple of Saturday night meetings to watch his son play ball. What's surprising is that he missed one Saturday night with the team because he was dining with U.S. Senator David Boren of Oklahoma.

ALL FINE IN SWITZERLAND: The Cowboys have continued without a glitch, despite the changing head coaches. Switzer has handled the press scrutiny with his usual charm. "I like what (guard) Nate Newton

said. When the Cowboys were driving for touchdowns in the Super Bowl and Nate looked up in the huddle, he didn't see Johnson's face." Switzer's point is players and not coaches win games. For his part, Newton characterized the difference this way: "You look at the Jews and the Muslims in their religious wars and look at Jimmy Johnson and Barry Switzer. You see there's more than one way to get to heaven, like there's more than one way to coach a football team."

HALEY UPDATE: The 49ers traded DE Charles Haley to the Cowboys just before the start of the 1992 season, and we all know what happened. Haley has played for two Super Bowl champions in the last two seasons, beating his old team in conference championship game each time. Haley wore out his welcome on the Niners because of his unpredictability. Apparently, the same thing was happening in Dallas. But when offensive coordinator Norv Turner left to be head coach of the Redskins, new coordinator Ernie Zampese wanted to keep Haley. Zampese was the offensive coordinator with the Rams for years and had to face Haley twice a year. He knew the kind of havoc Haley created.

RICE VS. COWBOYS: In the last three games against the Cowboys, Jerry Rice has 21 catches for 288 yards and one TD.

SMITH VS. THE 49ERS: In his last three games against the Niners, Cowboys RB Emmitt Smith has 294 yards on 74 carries (3.97 avg.) with three TDs. He also has two TD receptions on 19 catches for 174 yards.

IRVIN VS. THE 49ERS: Cowboys WR Michael Irvin has caught 20 passes for 277 yards (13.85 avg.) and one TD in his last three games against the 49ers.

KEY PLAYERS

49ERS

LB Ken Norton must stop Emmitt Smith, not only in pass coverage but also running the ball ... **S Tim McDonald** will be a key in this effort. In the 1993 regular-season game McDonald had 12 tackles, the Cowboys scored 26 points and Smith gained a scant 3.4 yards per carry. In the championship game McDonald made four tackles, the Cowboys scored 38 points, and Smith averaged 3.8 yards per carry. **S Merton Hanks** is called on to read QB Troy Aikman's eyes and come up with a turnover. In 87 pass attempts against the 49ers, Aikman has yet to be intercepted ... **QB Steve Young** is turnover prone against the Cowboys and must avoid them at all costs ... **OTs Harris Barton** and **Steve Wallace** must also give Young the protection he needs if he's to use **WRs Jerry Rice** and **John Taylor** effectively ... **FB William Floyd** can help keep the pass rush off Young, too.



FB Darryl Johnston

COWBOYS

The 49ers double-teamed LB-DE Charles Haley last year in hopes it would frustrate him. Still, they were unable to contain him. Haley had nine tackles in the two games, including three sacks, and two forced fumbles. Haley's having a career year and will be key to his team's success ... **WR Michael Irvin** will likely face Deion Sanders one-on-one. A turnover or two could make the difference ... **TE Jay Novacek** and his ability to shake the coverage of LB Lee Woodall is also important to the Cowboys ... **FB Darryl Johnston** is invaluable both for his blocking and his occasional running and/or receiving.

COWBOYS

ROSTER AND DEPTH CHART

8	Troy Aikman	QB
9	Rodney Peete	QB
17	Jason Garrett	QB
18	Chris Boniol	K
19	John Jett	P
22	Emmitt Smith	RB
24	Larry Brown	CB
25	Derrick Lassic	RB
26	Kevin Smith	CB
28	Darren Woodson	S
28	Kenneth Cant	S
31	Brock Marion	S
34	Tommie Agee	FB
37	James Washington	S
40	Bill Bates	S
41	Dave Thomas	CB
44	Lincoln Coleman	RB
46	Joe Fishback	S
47	Clayton Holmes	CB
48	Darryl Johnston	FB
50	Darrick Brownlow	LB
52	Jim Schwartz	LB
53	Mark Stepnoski	C
55	Robert Jones	LB
58	Dixon Edwards	LB
59	Darrin Smith	LB
60	Derek Kennard	G
81	Nate Newton	G
82	James Parrish	T
85	Ron Stone	G
87	Russell Maryland	DT
88	George Hegamin	T
70	Dale Hellestrae	G/C
71	Mark Tuinei	T
73	Larry Allen	T
77	Jim Jeffcoat	DE
78	Leon Lett	DL
79	Erik Williams	T
80	Alvin Harper	WR
82	Cory Fleming	WR
83	Willie Jackson	WR
84	Jay Novacek	TE
85	Kevin Williams	WR
88	Michael Irvin	WR
89	Scott Galbraith	TE
90	Toddrick McIntosh	DT
91	Matt Vanderbeek	LB
92	Tony Tolbert	DE
94	Charles Haley	DE
95	Chad Hennings	DT
96	Shante Carver	DE
98	Godfrey Myles	LB
99	Hurvin McCormack	DT

OFFENSE

WR-80-HARPER, 82-Fleming
 LT-71-TUINEI, 65-Stone
 LG-61-NEWTON, 65-Stone
 C-53-STEPNOSKI, 70-Hellestrae
 RG-80-KENWARD, 65-Stone
 RT-73-ALLEN, 69-Hegamin
 TE-84-NOVACEK, 89-Galbraith
 WR-88-IRVIN, 85-Williams
 QB-9-AIKMAN, 9-Peete
 FB-48-JOHNSTON, 24-Agee
 RB-22-SMITH, 44-Coleman

DEFENSE

LE-92-TOLBERT, 77-Jeffcoat
 LT-67-MARYLAND, 95-Hennings
 RT-78-LETT, 99-McCormack
 RE-84-HALEY, 96-Carver
 SLB-58-EDWARDS, 98-Myles
 MLB-55-JONES, 98-Myles
 WLB-59-SMITH, 50-Brownlow
 LCB-26-SMITH, 47-Holmes
 RCB-24-BROWN, 47-Holmes
 FS-37-WASHINGTON, 46-Fishback
 SS-28-WOODSON, 31-Marion

SPECIAL TEAMS

P-19-JETT, 18-Boniol
 K-18-BONIOL
 H-84-NOVACEK, 19-Jett
 KOR-85-WILLIAMS, 31-Marion
 PR-85-WILLIAMS, 47-Holmes
 PC-70-HELLESTRAE, 48-Johnston
 KC-70-HELLESTRAE, 48-Johnston



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Atlanta at New Orleans	New Orleans	Atlanta	New Orleans	New Orleans
Chicago at Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami
Cleveland at Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Dallas at San Francisco	San Francisco	Dallas	San Francisco	San Francisco
Houston at Cincinnati	Houston	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Houston
L.A. Raiders at L.A. Rams	L.A. Rams	L.A. Raiders	L.A. Raiders	L.A. Raiders
Minnesota at New England	New England	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota
N.Y. Jets at Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay
San Diego at Kansas City	Kansas City	San Diego	Kansas City	Kansas City
Seattle at Denver	Denver	Denver	Denver	Denver
Tampa Bay at Detroit	Detroit	Detroit	Detroit	Detroit
Buffalo at Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Buffalo	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh

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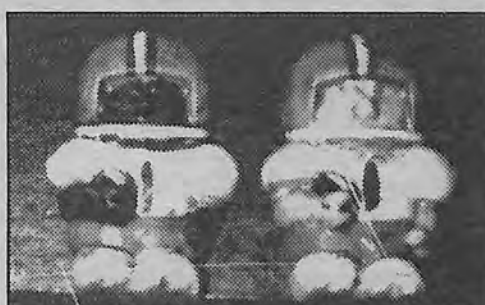
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Atlanta at New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans	Atlanta	Atlanta
Chicago at Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami
Cleveland at Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Cleveland
Dallas at San Francisco	San Francisco	San Francisco	Dallas	San Francisco
Houston at Cincinnati	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston
L.A. Raiders at L.A. Rams	L.A. Raiders	L.A. Raiders	L.A. Rams	L.A. Rams
Minnesota at New England	New England	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota
N.Y. Jets at Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	N.Y. Jets
San Diego at Kansas City	San Diego	Kansas City	San Diego	Kansas City
Seattle at Denver	Denver	Denver	Seattle	Seattle
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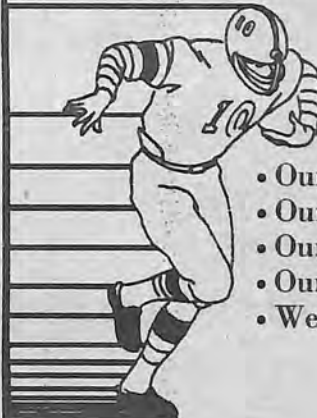
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